

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the 158th meeting, held on 27th April 1998 in
Portobello Baptist Church Hall.

PRESENT:

Sandy Smith (Chair), Kathleen Hart (Treasurer)
Harold Alexander-Bowen, Telfer Blacklock, Sgt James Brooks, Celia Butterworth, Cllr Maureen Child,
Shand Hutchison, Linda Kelly, George Murray, Beryl Neil, Lesley Reid, Nick Stroud, Hazel Thomas,
David Turner.

APOLOGIES:

Lynn Aitchison, James McGachie, Cllr Lawrence Marshall, Anne Millan, Brenda Molony,
Margaret Smith, Tom Smith, Gavin Strang.

Note: people who wish to submit apologies at the last minute should notify Sandy Smith on 669 6534.

158.1 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

Sandy Smith took the Chair and welcomed all present.

158.2 MINUTES OF MEETING OF 30th MARCH 1998

The minutes were accepted as a true record: proposed by Harold Alexander-Bowen, seconded
by George Murray.

158.3 MATTERS ARISING

- 158.3a Information Plaques: Celia reported that we have received £2,049.17 from the City of
Edinburgh Local Agenda 21 Project Fund, which will pay for another board. We are hoping for
money to match this from LEEL.
- 158.3b Brunstane Road traffic: no further information; item continues.
- 158.3c Telferton allotments: Shand reported that 85 letters of protest had been sent in. A report is being
prepared for the Development Central Sub-Committee of Planning. There will be no further
information until the report is completed.
- 158.3d Lord Lyon: Shand has the framed scroll for the Library, which looks very good. There are also
six photocopies; it remains to be decided where these will go. Shand volunteered to do by hand
two copies of the crest to put over the doors in the Town Hall. Item continues.
- 158.3e Pottery Museum: item continues.
- 158.3f Car Club: several firms are interested, and competitive tendering is going forward. The
Transportation committee next meets on Monday 1st June.
- 158.3g Credit Union: general training is underway once a month; more volunteers are still needed.
- 158.3h Letterheaded Notepaper: Lesley had received a quote of £186 for 500 sheets and £210 for 1,000
sheets. This was for black-and-white copies, and includes the cost of the disk from which further
copies can be made. Osbert has offered to do this at cost. It was decided to wait until Tom is
back, as he has more information on costing.

- 158.3i Amalgamation Event video: to be passed on to the C.A.B.
- 158.3j Multilateral Agreement on Investment: a letter from Margaret Beckett had been forwarded by Gavin Strang. It appears that a lot of negotiation still has to take place, and there will be no early agreement.
- 158.3k Information at Bus Stops: item continues.
- 158.3l Swim Centre: Maureen said that the reason for the local cooperative not getting the catering contract was partly due to the fact that they produced some of the food in their own houses, which was in breach of hygiene regulations (though it was pointed out that a new kitchen was created in the refurbishment which could have overcome this problem).

Maureen also stated that the catering company which won the contract did not exert undue pressure on the Council by offering to take over all or none of their catering outlets (such as Meadowbank and the Commonwealth Pool); each site had been considered individually.

Concern was expressed about the type and quantity of food being offered, and the fact that children in particular were encouraged to buy unhealthy food in what should be a centre dedicated to promoting good health.

Concern was also expressed about the working conditions of the staff in the cafe, and it was hoped that the low tender made by the catering company was not at the expense of staff pay and conditions.

It was agreed that the Secretary should write to the operators of the Baths asking for their reassurance on these matters.

If people have any concerns they are asked to express them by writing to the Sport and Leisure Trust, 14 Waterloo Place, Edinburgh.

To make the most efficient use of the space at the foot of Bellfield Street, chevron parking is to be encouraged; the Police agree with this.

It was suggested that the Community Council offer to display notices about the Swim Centre's opening times in its noticeboards, to help to encourage local interest; item continues.

It appears that no video was made of the opening event.

- 158.3m Community Indicators (and sustainable communities): a written report of the meeting on 21st April was circulated. The next meeting is at 7:30pm on 30th April, at 9 Sandford Gardens.
- 158.3n Joppa Toilets: Maureen pointed out that the toilets in the Swim Centre are now available to the public. Item continues.

158.4 REPORTS

158.4a Police

Sgt Brooks informed the meeting of a proposed project involving the Police and the Junior and Senior Crime Prevention Panels. It is proposed to hold a competition for P4 to S2 children on the theme of "an ideal police officer for the Millennium". Contestants will be asked for an image or picture and five essential attributes which characterise "PC 2000". The intention is that the Junior Panel will organise the competition, and the Senior Panel will provide funds for school prizes. The winning entries will be displayed at the Police Station.

As a result of concern about Neighbourhood Watch, and the active support of these schemes by Police, a community consultation exercise is currently under way. Officers will visit all 37 local schemes, to establish what their expectations are and how realistic expectations might be met by local officers. It is hoped that this will ensure improved communication and relations.

158.4b Treasurer's Report

The accounts as at 30th March 1998, with several donations made as agreed at the Community Council's last meeting, are:

Treasurer's Account:	£ 883.08
Joppa Tennis Courts:	£ 786.86

158.4c P.C.F.A. Report

Sandy had spoke to Lynn, who is still thinking of ways to get the Festival restarted.

158.5 CYCLING

Lesley reviewed what had been done in producing the Report which she presented to the Community Council last October. It was decided that the Report should be sent to various people with a covering letter from the cycling sub-group of the Community Council asking for the information to be considered and requesting that we be consulted about any future plans. Item continues.

158.6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 158.6a Cyrenian Shop (Evergreen, 230 Portobello High Street): this worthwhile charity was brought to the attention of the meeting. They sell produce and serve tea/coffee; they are looking for volunteers to help in the shop.
- 158.6b Portobello Old Parish Church: there is a new drop-in centre in the church, and it is hoped that young people will use it in the evenings for tea/coffee and chat.
- 158.6c Christmas tree hole: we have received a letter from PAS suggesting that the circle outside the bank where the Christmas tree used to be erected should be levelled over. This was agreed.
- 158.6d 'Town and Country Planning': the City of Edinburgh has drawn attention to this book which might be of use to local groups. It costs £18, but should also be available in the Library.
- 158.6e Jet skis: there have been several complaints about the noise of jet skis and motor boats just off Portobello beach. The Police will investigate this.
- 158.6f Edinburgh Crossrail: the City of Edinburgh is pursuing the idea of a rail link through Edinburgh and into the Borders, which might include train stations at Holyrood, Portobello and Kinnaird Park amongst others. It was requested that we write to the City Council in support of this initiative; item continues pending further information.
- 158.6g Millennium Debate: there will be a debate "Only two years to go", chaired by Margo McDonald, on Wednesday 6th May, in the Senate Room, Old College, South Bridge. Tickets cost £2.

158.7 FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meetings will be held on the following dates in Portobello Baptist Church Hall in the High Street (enter by the door to the right of the Portobello Bar), starting at 7:30pm:

Monday 25th May

Monday 29th June

Monday 27th July

PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF MEETING

The 159th meeting of Portobello Community Council
will be held
on Monday 25th May 1998 at 7:30pm,
in Portobello Baptist Church Hall, 185 High Street.

AGENDA

- 1. Chairman's welcome; apologies**
- 2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting: 27th April 1998**
- 3. Matters arising from meeting of 27th April**
- 4. Reports**
- 5. Planning**
- 6. AOCB**
- 7. Dates of future meetings**